

#### **IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

variable display devices for variably displaying various symbols;

a lottery device for executing a lottery of a winning combination;

a stop control device for performing stop control of variable display;

a stop control selection device for selecting a kind of control of the stop control device in reference to a result of the lottery;

a shielding device for shielding approximately the whole area of the variable display devices, the shielding device being disposed in front of the variable display devices; and

a shielding control device for performing, in accordance with selection by the stop control selection device, switch control of the shielding device between a state enabling a player to visually recognize some of the symbols and another state disabling the player from visually recognizing some of the symbols;

wherein the shielding control device performing, in accordance with a kind of stopping operation by the player, switch control between a first shielding state which is executed when the stopping operation matches the kind of the stop control device, and a second shielding state which is executed when the stopping operation does not match the kind of the stop control device.

14. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to Claim 13, further comprising an effect display, which displays an effect image and is disposed in front of the variable display devices wherein the effect image is displayed on the effect display after the second shielding state is executed.

15. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to Claim 13, wherein the shielding device comprises an electronic shutter.

16. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:  
variable display devices for variably displaying various symbols;  
a lottery device for executing a lottery of a winning combination;  
a stop control device for performing stop control of variable display;  
a stop control selection device for selecting a kind of control of the stop control device in reference to a result of the lottery;  
a shielding device for shielding approximately the whole area of the variable display devices, the shielding device being disposed in front of the variable display devices; and  
a shielding control device for performing, in accordance with selection by the stop control selection device, switch control of the shielding device between a state enabling a player to visually recognize some of the symbols and another state disabling the player from visually recognizing some of the symbols.

17. (New) A gaming machine comprising:  
variable display devices for variably displaying various symbols;  
a lottery device for executing a lottery of a prize-winning combination;  
an attraction display device for displaying an attraction image;  
a shielding device for shielding approximately the whole area of the variable display devices, the shielding device being disposed in front of the variable display devices; and  
an attraction control device for controlling the shielding device and the attraction display device;  
wherein the attraction control device is capable of controlling the shielding device to switch, based on a predetermined condition, between a first control state of a transmissive or a semi-transmissive state such that the attraction display device is controlled while a player is capable of visually recognizing the symbols, and a second control state of a shielding state such that the attraction display device is controlled while the player is approximately disabled from visually recognizing the symbols.